2006 List of Best Workplaces for Commuters℠ from Colleges and Universities

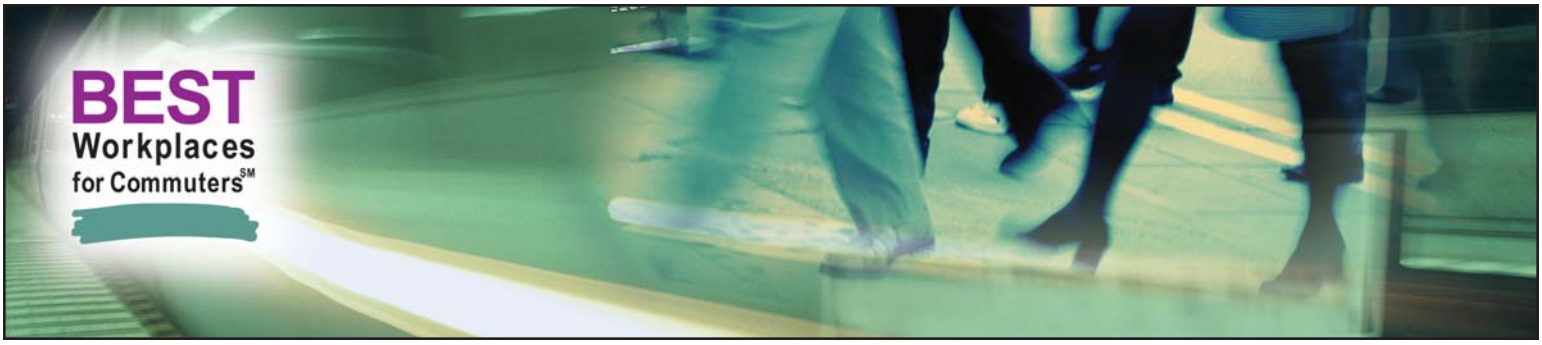
Fast Facts

Best Workplaces for Commuters℠ National Colleges and Universities List Release Facts

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is recognizing 72 institutions of higher education in 26 states during the release of the 2006 list of Best Workplaces for Commuters from colleges and universities.
- More than 568,000 employees receive an excellent package of commuter benefits from these innovative colleges and universities. Annually, these employees:
  - Save 30 million gallons of gasoline
  - Reduce 616 million miles of driving
  - Save $86 million spent on gasoline
    (based on average of $2.92/gal for week of May 1. Source: Energy Information Administration)
  - Reduce 260,000 metric tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalent to:
    - Over 50,000 passenger cars not driven for one year
    - Over 700,000 barrels of oil
    - Providing 33,000 households with electricity for one year
  - Reduce 370 short tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) precursors to ozone commonly referred to as smog
  - Reduce 700 short tons of NO_X
  - Reduce 7,750 short tons of CO

Best Workplaces for Commuters℠

- Best Workplaces for Commuters delivers results. Nationwide, over 1,500 employers meet the *National Standard of Excellence*. These environmental leaders improve air quality, save energy and reduce traffic congestion, by providing outstanding commuter benefits to over 3 million employees.
- Between 2001 and 2005 employers that have achieved the Best Workplaces for Commuters designation and their employees have:
  - Saved 389 million gallons of fuel.
  - Prevented the release of 3.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, equivalent to providing 436,000 households with electricity for one year.
  - Saved their employees almost ¾ of a billion dollars taking into account average gas prices over the course of that time (Energy Information Administration).



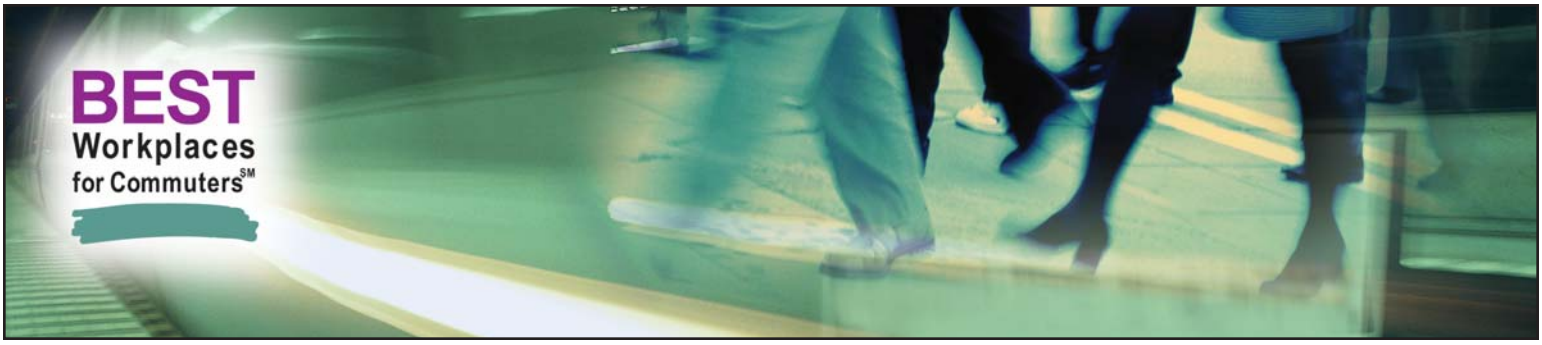
- If half of all U.S. employees worked for employers offering outstanding commuter benefits, annually 3.5 billion gallons of gasoline would be conserved, saving consumers almost $10 billion and reducing carbon dioxide by 30 million metric tons—the equivalent of taking 6 million cars off the road.
- When employees receive outstanding commuter benefits meeting the *National Standard of Excellence*, an additional 15 percent will try carpools, vanpools, or public transit to save money, help the environment, and reduce commuting-related stress (Results of 2004 EPA survey).

Commuting Facts

- 78 percent of all commute trips in the U.S. are drive-alone (2000 U.S. Census).
- 14 percent of Americans say they have changed jobs, or simply left a job, primarily because of the commute (*ABC News Poll*, February, 2005).
- 85 percent of commuters surveyed consider a commute to be an important factor in determining where they work and/or look for work (GfK Automotive National Survey Findings on Attitudes & Behaviors).
- 57 percent of commuters have expressed interest in working for an employer that offers commuter benefits (GfK Automotive National Survey Findings on Attitudes & Behaviors).
- In 2003, congestion resulted in 3.7 billion person-hours, or more than 92 million work weeks of delay in the United States (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*).
- Annual total delays per peak traveler during rush hour almost tripled between 1982 and 2003, from 16 hours to 47 hours, respectively (Texas Transportation Institute, 2*005 Urban Mobility Report*).
- The number of urban areas with more than 20 hours of annual delay per peak traveler has grown from only five in 1982 to 51 in 2003 (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*).
- In 2003, congestion caused 3.7 billion hours of travel delay and 2.3 billion gallons of wasted fuel. This is an increase from 2002 of 79 million hours and 69 million gallons and results in a total cost of more than $63 billion when the cost of wasted fuel and the value of wasted time are taken into account (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*).

Health and Work/Life Effectiveness Facts

- Exposure to traffic-related pollution, such as exhaust from cars, trucks, and school buses, increases a child's risk of respiratory complications as well as lifetime risk of cancer (American Academy of Pediatrics, Dec. 6, 2004).
- Workers with flexible options—such as telecommuting from home or having alternative work hours—are least likely to leave their companies, have the highest productivity, and enjoy better mental health (Families and Work Institute, 2004).



Air Quality Facts

- In 2004, cars and light trucks in the U.S. drove a total of 2.7 trillion miles, almost triple the amount in 1970 (FHWA Highway Statistics, 2004).
- Gasoline consumption in vehicles accounts for 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (U.S. Department of Energy).
- In 2002, cars and light trucks consumed 8.5 million barrels of oil per day, 42.5 percent of total U.S. consumption (U.S. Department of Energy).
- Between 2002 and 2012, vehicle miles from drive-alone commuting will increase by at least 15 percent—generating an additional 43 million metric tons of CO_2 annually (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. EPA).

Financial Facts

- Traffic congestion now costs Americans $63.1 billion a year (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*).
- 18 percent of household income is dedicated to transportation—before recent price increases (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- In 2005, it cost an average of 56.1 cents per mile, or $8,410 per year, to own and operate a domestically produced midsize vehicle (AAA Online, March 21, 2005).
- On average, constructing a parking space costs between $1,500 (for a surface lot) and $17,400 (in a garage.) In addition, average annual maintenance and operating costs for each space ranges from $420 to $740 (2004 Benchmarking the Parking Profession, International Parking Institute).